



The Grannytown Gazette

The Newsletter of the Alden Historical Society

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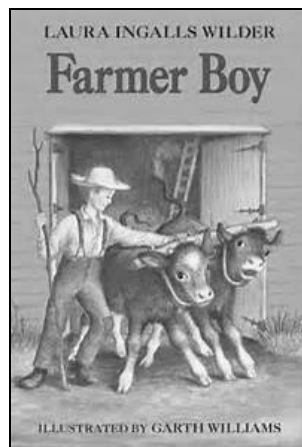
"I scream, you scream,

We all scream for ice cream!"

A Cool Treat

Is there anything quite as refreshing as a dish or cone of ice cream on a warm summer afternoon or evening? The inhabitants of Alden one hundred+ years ago probably thought so, too.

In the days before electricity and refrigeration it took the "invention" of the ice house to make it possible for ice cream to be made during the summer. By using straw or sawdust as insulation, blocks of ice cut from lakes and ponds could be kept frozen for several months, often until the following winter. Farmers often had their own ice houses. Laura Ingalls Wilder, in her book Farmer Boy, tells of her husband Almanzo, as a young boy in northern New York, digging a block of ice out of the sawdust to use to make ice cream on a hot summer day when the Wilder children had been left to look after themselves:



"Eliza Jane measured milk and cream, and dipped up sugar from the barrel in the pantry. It was not the common maple sugar, but white sugar from the store. Mother used it only when company came.

Eliza Jane dipped six cupsful, then smoothed the sugar that was left, and you would hardly have missed any. She made a big milk-pail full of yellow custard. They set the pail in a tub and packed the crushed ice around it, with salt, and they covered it all with a blanket. Every few minutes they took off the blanket and uncovered the pail, and stirred the freezing ice cream."

Continued

Crittenden had an ice house, as did Millgrove and there was a large one behind the Wahl Brothers store (now Alden Medical Supply) in the village.



Ralph Stowell told in one of his *Facts and Foolishness* columns of having to take a wheelbarrow to the 2-story ice house behind Wahl's where "he had to climb a ladder, dig out a big cake of ice, drag it to the window, throw it out and climb down, load it in the wheelbarrow and take it to the back of the drugstore (Wright's Drugstore next to the Methodist Church) where there was some kind of shelter, chip enough to pack the soda fountain, and cover the remaining ice with wet rags to keep for future use." This was after he had fetched a five gallon can of Hoefler's ice cream (made in Buffalo) and packed in ice and salt from the Erie depot. He got so he could make that trip with only one stop for a breather. When the new Wright Drugstore was built in 1914, on the corner of Broadway and Exchange Street, Ralph helped a little in planning the building.

He suggested a dumb waiter to come from the basement to the back of the soda fountain to make it easier to bring up the ice. The dumb waiter is still in use, but not for ice. There must be some readers who remember that soda fountain with its marble counter; the tall glass soda glasses with long spoons; the metal holders for paper cone-shaped sundae dishes.

There were other places to purchase ice cream in the early 1900s. The William Swyers



Photo courtesy Alden Advertiser and Barb Krauss.

Pictured are Barb, daughter Christine, Ann Brotherton and Ralph D. Stowell.

family sold ice cream at their home on Exchange Street, near the depot and next to the Alden Mineral Baths and Hotel. George Clark and his wife ran a confectionary shop in what is now Lorenzi's and sold ice cream. Again a convenient location, across from the park, midway between the blackwater bath houses and the railroad depot.



Ice Cream Parlor, Mrs. Wm. Swyers, Alden, N. Y.

**Try Our Home Made
ICE CREAM**
- and -
SHERBERTS

MADE RIGHT HERE IN ALDEN
COME IN AND WATCH US MAKE IT
We Use Only Highest Quality Cream

PINTS	QUARTS	BRICKS	BULK
15c	30c	40c	50c

*Made with our New Ice Cream
Machine, recently installed.*

LIGHT LUNCHES and REGULAR MEALS AT ALL TIMES

Alden Sugar Bowl
Alden, N. Y. 1938

The Sugar Bowl, on the opposite corner from the Drugstore, was another place to get ice cream in the 1930s. The Tavlaris brothers, John and Leon, ran the Sugar Bowl and made their own ice cream. When the Alden Grill opened in the adjoining store in 1936, the Sugar Bowl quit selling beer and concentrated on the ice cream business along with light lunches and regular meals. A newspaper ad in June of 1938 announced that their Saturday and Sunday special was fresh strawberry ice cream—for 30 cents a quart!

Alden Sugar Bowl
HOME MADE ICE CREAM AND CANDIES
LUNCHES SERVED
SPECIAL BRICKS, 3 FOR \$1.00

Phone 4501

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Neeland's Dairy
Quality Dairy Products

Home Made Ice Cream Milk By The Gallon

ALDEN NEW YORK 1952

Alden Sight Saver Directory ad 1953

Make Your Own
CONES
at Home
Buy ½ Gallon
Neeland's Ice Cream

Color Cone Cups Sugar Cones

1988
Neeland's Dairy 13269 Broadway
ALDEN 937-9232

1988 ad



Roy Neeland

Perhaps most remembered is Neeland's Dairy on the corner of Elm Street and Broadway. Myron Neeland began the dairy on his farm on County Line Road, north of North Road, in 1924. In 1947, Myron's sons, Harley and Roy, opened the dairy store in the village—free cones for all on opening day! They, too, made their own ice cream. There has been a debate on the Friends of Neeland's Dairy Facebook page as to the best flavor, and to the color of the chocolate ice cream—one group saying it was grayish brown, the other insisting it was brownish brown. One former patron wrote that every summer she attempted to have a cone of every flavor listed on the board.

Continued



Neeland's Dairy



Photo courtesy Friends of Neeland's Dairy

Pictured: Joanne Zimmerman

When the Dairy closed its doors in 1989, there was no longer a place in the village to get an ice cream cone or sundae. Stowell's no longer had their soda fountain; the Sugar Bowl was gone. Oh, there was Pudgy Bear's for a time in the Broadway-Two Rod Road area and Beachy's in Darien, but nothing in the village.



Then someone saw the opportunity to turn the vacant Photo Island in the Ames Plaza into an ice cream stand. The tiny stand has gone through several color changes and names. With its pink sides and Holstein spots, we all know it now as "The Pink Cow." On warm summer evenings, the length of the lines of ice cream lovers rival those that used to snake out the door at Neeland's.

"I scream, you scream, We all scream for ice cream!"

The refrain to a popular song first published in 1927, words and music by Howard Johnson, Billy Moll and Robert King. After an initial success as a novelty song, the tune became a traditional jazz standard while the refrain has remained a part of popular culture.

Submitted by Karen Muchow, Archivist



Why Grannytown?

The story is that when the early settlers met in 1823 to decide on the name for their town which had been newly separated from the Town of Clarence, Seth Estabrook suggested "Alden". He said the town was as small and as sweet as his mother-in-law, a lineal descendant of John and Priscilla Alden of Mayflower fame. Realizing their town had been named after a grandmother, the settlers affectionately referred to Alden as "Grannytown" for some years.

A Message from the President

Your Alden Historical Society hopes that all of our Granny Town Gazette readers are enjoying the new design and layout of our quarterly newsletter. We thank Trustee Lynda Tucker for taking over the reins and also thank Trustee Carl Matthies for his work over the past several years in laying out and designing the Gazette.

We have recently concluded our 2015-16 monthly program season at the Community center and after taking July and August off, we will resume in September. We thank everyone who attended one (or all) of our programs. We covered a wide range of material, including the Made in America stores, the Salem Witch Trials, exploring Buffalo's Olmstead Park System and Niagara Square, our own Black Water Bath history, Pets of the Civil War and more. We hope that you found them interesting and educational. We thank Conrad and Carol Borucki for their efforts in producing our program schedule, and Sandy Dussault for coordinating refreshments during the programs.

We recently welcomed 5th grade classes from Alden Central School, in which lessons were conducted by Historical Society volunteers at the Henskee Road Schoolhouse and at the Society building. It's always rewarding for our Historical Society to be able to provide educational opportunities for the youth in our community and we hope the students and teachers found the experience worthwhile and fun.

We also appreciate everyone who has joined the Alden Historical Society with a new paid membership. We welcome several new individual and business members. If you are reading this issue of the Gazette and are not a current member, please consider joining the Society. We also always appreciate current lifetime members who make donations in lieu of dues. Thank you!

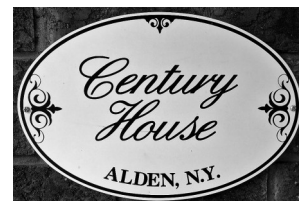
Have a safe and enjoyable summer. As always, we thank you for your interest and support.

Christopher Gust, President



Was your house built before July, 1916?

Your house will qualify as one of Alden's Century Homes, if it was. Your home has earned the right to proudly wear a century home plaque. Alden's Century Homes are (with the owner's permission) photographed. These photos are kept in the historical society's archives. We offer you an opportunity to give a detailed description of your home and include photographs if you like.



Century home plaques can be purchased from the Alden Historical Society. Plaques cost \$40.00 each. You may contact the Alden Historical Society at 716 937 3700 or by email AldenHistSoc@gmail.com.

Schoolhouse Activities

ALDEN INTERMEDIATE FIFTH GRADES VISIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

During the week of June 6-10, students in Alden Intermediate's fifth grade classes once again spent time at the Alden Historical Society building and at the Henskee Road Schoolhouse, located at Alden Town Park. Each class and their teachers split their time between the two locations.



Photo courtesy Alden Intermediate School

Photos courtesy Carl Matthies



At the Historical Society building they learned about the history of Alden, its early settlers, geology, geographic location, hamlets, organizations, and businesses. They examined displays of earlier period lifestyles, clothing, toys, household goods, farm implements, military history, and a general store. Students at the Henskee Road Schoolhouse followed a schedule simulating a typical school day in the early 1900's. They completed lessons in reading, arithmetic, and spelling, and they used the learning implements current at that time: pencils, chalk, and slate boards. Students' favorite activities at the schoolhouse

seemed to be the recess activities, while at the historical society building they enjoyed a scavenger hunt.

The Historical Society would like to thank retired teachers Sandie Karpie, Roberta Vincent, Sandy Dussault, and Marcia Spitler as well as trustees Conrad Borucki, Elli DeFilippo, and Carl Matthies, for volunteering their time to teach the classes. Thanks also to the Alden teachers and assistants: Mrs. Mooney, Mrs. Blahowicz, Mrs. Hetey, Mrs. Kopack, Mrs. Mattheus, Mr. Neidel, Mrs. Woitaszek, Mrs. Au, Mrs. Devine, Miss Genco, Mrs. Huston, and Mrs. Tyburski, for their cooperation in coordinating the project. We owe a special debt of gratitude to Historical Society Archivist Karen Muchow for establishing the program and developing the curriculum.

Submitted by Elli DeFilippo, Vice President

Alden Veteran's Memorial Update

As is clearly visible to those passing by the Alden Community Center, the landscaping phase of the Alden Veterans Memorial is well underway. Many generous contributions of money, materials, time and effort have begun to transform the area into a serene setting of reverence and contemplation - a memorial the community can take pride in. The area will continue to evolve over time with the addition of more shrubs, trees and other greenery.

The veterans memorial committee wishes to thank the following for their donations:



Zoladz Construction-topsoil, mulch and trucking, **Mitchell Farms**-geraniums, petunias and lobelia to create the patriotic red, white and blue theme, **Home Depot**, 10 shrub varieties, **Paul Evans** with the **Erie County Correctional Facility**, red and white begonias. **Alden State Bank**, purchase of the two black metal silhouettes made by **CJR Machine Inc. of Alden**.

American Legion Post 1377 of Alden and the **Alden VFW Post 7967** for their financial contribution and support.

Bud Milligan and **Conrad Borucki** for the actual planting and hours of watering and maintenance.

Phil Arnold for coordinating the entire project.

The **Alden Advertiser** for coverage and promotion right from Day One.

Remember, no taxpayer money was used to fund any part of this project.

Bricks for the memorial walkway can still be purchased. To buy a brick or to learn more about the project contact the Alden Town Hall at 937-6969 (extension 3).

Submitted by Trustee Conrad Borucki

Late Spring Beautification

Our Society Building's grounds recently greeted the summer proudly with a freshly-groomed look and unclogged storm drainpipe. Building & Grounds Chair Larry Kocher led a team of skilled rakers, shrub-clippers, weed-pullers, and bagmen. Highlights were the ever-popular weed/not weed game and the "ram-a-pole down the detached drainpipe" demonstration. A good time was had by all. Thanks to Larry, Elli DeFilippo, Kyle Kavanagh, Carl Matthies, and Jane and Clarke Burke.

Submitted by Clarke Burke, Treasurer



k33248783 fotosearch.com ©

Erie County Fair Exhibit

For many people, the Erie County Fair in Hamburg, N.Y is one of summer's highlights. Although the fair is several weeks away (August 10 to 21), our own Historical Society fair committee, spearheaded by Conrad Borucki and Larry Kocher is busy designing and constructing Alden's entry. The title of this year's competition, held in the fair's Historical Building, is **"Local Landmarks-The Fabric of Our Community."** The project is "hush-hush" for now, but the committee assures us that Alden's presentation will be unusual, creative and highly unique. We are eagerly anticipating the finished product.



Last year the Alden Historical Society won the top two blue ribbons. One ribbon was for "Best Execution of the Theme," while the other was for "Best Overall Display." Can the committee repeat last year's success? We are certain our entry won't lack effort! It will sure be worth stopping in and checking out their inspired project.

Submitted by Conrad Borucki, Trustee

Scenes from recent programs

Photos courtesy Christopher Gust



Karen Muchow
Blackwater Baths

May 12th

Submitted by Christopher Gust, President

Joyce Thompson-Hovey
Pets & Mascots of the Civil War

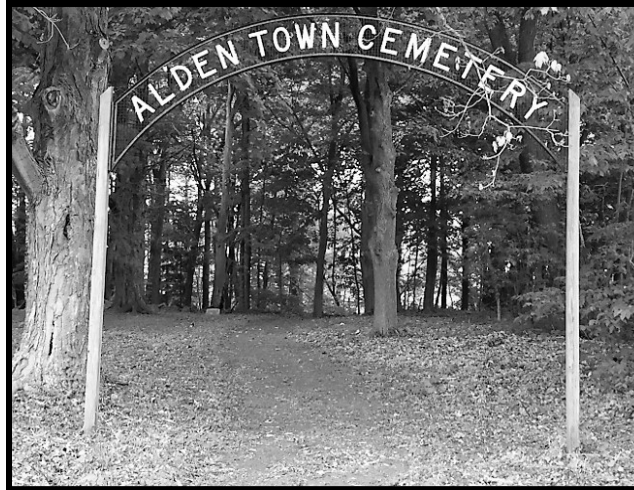
June 9th



Alden Town Cemetery Tour

The Historical Society's "Bonus Program" tour of the old Alden Town Cemetery on Sandridge Road was held on June 4th. Karen Muchow gave a brief history of the cemetery and told stories of some of the individuals confirmed to be buried there. Two Revolutionary soldiers and at least one Civil War soldier are buried there.

The cemetery is
located behind
1821 Sandridge Road.



The stones are weathered,
many illegible.



Photos courtesy Christopher Gust

Excerpts from Karen Muchow,
Archivist

There are no burial records for
the cemetery. Burials began in
the 1830s until about 50 years
ago.



The cemetery has been
known as 'potter's field',
with burials in unmarked
graves of residents from
the Erie County Home. It
is also said to be
haunted.



Historical Society Building

The **Alden Historical Society's** many exhibits are located in the village at the Alden Historical Society Building, 13213 Broadway, across from Alden State Bank. The mission of the historical society is to preserve, promote and present the history of Alden and its people.

HOURS:

The **Alden Historical Society Building** is open to the public from 1 PM to 3 PM the first and third Sunday of each month, except during January and February. Tours for individuals and groups may be arranged by calling 937-3700 or 937-6400.

MEETINGS:

Program meetings are generally held at the Alden Community Center on the second Thursday of the month at 7 PM. Notices will be published in the **Alden Advertiser** in advance of the program. Open to the public, these programs are both informative and interesting, often featuring a guest speaker. You are very welcome to come and share your memories and experiences about the evening's program, followed by an informal social complete with homemade refreshments. In the event of inclement weather, we will postpone when Alden school activities are closed.

Trustee meetings are held at the **Alden Historical Society Building** at 7 PM. Meetings are held the first Thursday of the month in February, April, June, August, October and December. Trustee meetings are open to the membership.

Committees

Membership—Lynda Tucker, Clarke Burke, Susanne Galbraith, Jennifer Strong

Collections—Larry Kocher, Diane Casell

Publicity/Newsletter—Elouise DeFilippo, Carl Matthies, Clarke Burke, Susanne Galbraith, Christopher Gust, Lynda Tucker

Program/Refreshments—Conrad and Carol Borucki, Sandy Dussault

Building and Grounds—Larry Kocher, Conrad Borucki
Christopher Gust

Fundraising—Gilbert Dussault

Nominating—Jane Burke, Elouise DeFilippo

Audit—Lynda Tucker, Clarke Burke

Budget—Clarke Burke, Christopher Gust, Larry Kocher,

Historical Marker/Signs—Christopher Gust, Clarke Burke, Gilbert Dussault, Larry Kocher, Jennifer Strong

Erie County Fair—Conrad Borucki, Larry Kocher

ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY DATES TO REMEMBER

PROGRAM MEETINGS

Alden Community Center 7 PM

July	14, 2016	Summer Break
Aug	11, 2016	Summer Break
Sept	08, 2016	CENTENNIAL HOMES

The village of Alden is fortunate to have many distinguished and unique century homes. These homes, at least 100 years of age, are fascinating examples of architectural diversity and historical significance. Several Alden village centennial homes will be highlighted – their characteristics and histories presented and discussed by the proud owners themselves. This much anticipated program is certain to be both highly informative and entertaining.

Welcome Members

Individual Renewals

Carolyn Burger
Helen Creighton
Rosemary Diedzic
Monica Kubiak
Laura Loehr
Beverly Nebrich
Marge Pohl
Leita Reed
Audrey Senecal
Wayne Weinsheimer
Rhonda Wieder

New Individual Members

Marlyn Casell
William Gadd
Daniel Giras
Kyle Kavanagh
Shirley Kocher
Donna Kubik
Donna Schall

Couple Renewals

Carol & Conrad Borucki
Cornelia & Douglas Cartwright
Jeanette & Thomas Dickinson
Allegra & Gregory Grenier
Michelle & Keith Hoffman
Marilene & Stephen Kotlowski
Ann & Carl Matthies
Barb & Bob Rice
Karen & Rick Savage

New Couple Members

Marie Shattuck & Richard Becker
Dick & Betty Kegler

Family Renewals

Helen & James Gickowski
& Shane Huston

Business Member Renewals

Alden Pharmacy
Alden State Bank
Cooke & Steffan, Attorneys
Elwood-Jordans Agency
Law Office of Michael Cole
Neill & Strong, Attorneys
Reserve Gas Company, Inc

New Business Members

Alden Chamber of Commerce

Donations

Cornelia & Douglas Cartwright
Ruth Davis
Joan Gadd
Janet Hoffman
Roberta Vincent
Patricia Mooney and the Alden
Central School's Fifth Grade Class

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New members are always welcome. Your support will assure that the Alden Historical Society will continue to grow and prosper for years to come.

Please note: The membership year is April 1 through March 31, with the annual renewal due by April 1.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!

ANNUAL DUES

Single \$12.00

Couple \$20.00

Family \$25.00

Business \$50.00

Please include your
Business card

Name.....

Address.....

Phone.....Email.....

Please make checks payable to Alden Historical Society

Mail to:

Lynda Tucker, Membership Secretary
Alden Historical Society
13213 Broadway
Alden, NY 14004

DONATIONS AND MEMORIALS ARE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

Please remember the Alden Historical society in your estate plans. A bequest in your memory or in memory of someone you love can help preserve the heritage of our community.

Please be advised that donations to the Alden Historical Society are not tax deductible as we are not a 501©(3) organization.

BUSINESS MEMBERS OF THE ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Alden advertiser
 Informing the Community Since 1914
"Your Hometown Weekly Newspaper"
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 email: aldenadvertiser@rochester.rr.com
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Brooks D. Bowman
 President

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 fax (716) 937-9552
bbowman@elwoodjordans.com
www.elwoodjordans.com

ALDEN
 Chamber of Commerce
 Established 1956

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 Alden
 New York 14004
 716-937-6177

www.aldenny.org
 email: secretary@aldenny.org
www.facebook.com/aldenchamber

LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL W. COLE, PLLC

MICHAEL W. COLE
 ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW

13223 BROADWAY STREET
 ALDEN, NEW YORK 14004
 (716) 937-9150
 (716) 937-9580 FAX
mcole@michaelcolelaw.com

Born, raised, lives and practices in our community, **Attorney JENNIFER STRONG** is your neighbor and is here to help.

Neill & Strong, Attorneys at Law
 13166 Main Street
 Village of Alden
 (716) 937-3353
www.neillstrong.com

A Alden PHARMACY

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 Phone: 716.937.9818
AldenPharmacy@AldenRX.com
www.AldenPharmacy.com

Thomas A. Steffan
 Attorney at Law

Cooke & Steffan, Attorneys

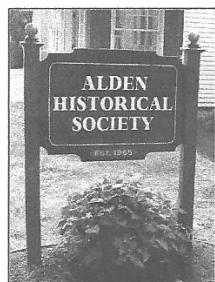
13132 Main Street
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 Email: tsteffan@cookeandsteffan.com

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Alden Historical Society, founded in 1965, is a volunteer supported organization whose mission is to preserve, promote, and present the history of the Town of Alden and its people.



Alden Historical Society
 13213 Broadway
 Alden, NY 14004

Find us on Facebook.com/AldenHistoricalSociety

*Chartered by the Board of Regents
 New York State Education Department*

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